

TOWN OF CHATHAM
NAUSET BEACH OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR LEAST TERNS AUGUST 2015

USER GUIDE

The Town of Chatham has received a Conservation and Management Permit (CMP) from the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife to allow for oversand vehicle use in the vicinity of Least Tern chicks on the Chatham portion of Nauset (North) Beach. The CMP allows oversand vehicle use while providing protection for Least Tern nests and chicks which are listed as a species of “Special Concern” under the MA Endangered Species Act (MGL Chp. 131A) in accordance with the *Town of Chatham Nauset Beach Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Management Plan for Least Terns, August 7, 2015*.

As an ORV operator you need to know, and abide by, the conditions of the Permit and Plan.
Failure to comply will result in mandatory revocation of your ORV permit for one (1) year from the date of infraction.

Key points that you need to abide by:

1. Due to limited beach width near the northern tern colony transit through this area (see Figure 1 on reverse) will be limited to windows of 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM* and 4:00 PM – 6:00*. During these windows two-way traffic will be allowed to accommodate those who drive to the inlet area and choose not to stay. *These times may be flexible due to inclement weather or chick location.
2. The restricted transit area in #1 will be a “Self-Escort” area during the transit windows. In this self-escort area, the beginning and end of which will be clearly marked by signs, a competent escorter, 16 years or older and capable of walking in front of the vehicle through soft sand, must disembark and walk in front of the vehicle looking for chicks or adult birds in the corridor.
3. An Enforcement Monitor will be positioned at the self-escort area. Each ORV must check in with the Monitor who will record the license plate and ORV sticker number before allowing the ORV to self-escort through the area.
4. The restricted transit area in #1 will also be a “No-Stopping/No-Parking” area and will be clearly marked by signs.
5. A second “No Stopping/No Parking” area will be located further south in the vicinity of a 2nd tern colony.
6. Shorebird monitors will check the “self-escort” prior to opening it to each transit window. Monitors will also check other areas of the beach and, both Enforcement and Shorebird Monitors, have the authority to temporarily stop ORVs if chicks enter the “self-escort” area or re-route vehicles if chicks move outside of symbolic fencing and into ORV use areas elsewhere on the beach.
7. **All** other rules and regulations contained in the “*Nauset Beach Rules and Regulations for ORVs*” remain in full force and effect. Of special importance:
 - **“From Trail #1 south to the Chatham Inlet, all dogs must be on a leash not more than 30 feet at all times from April 1 through Labor Day.”**

FIGURE 1

